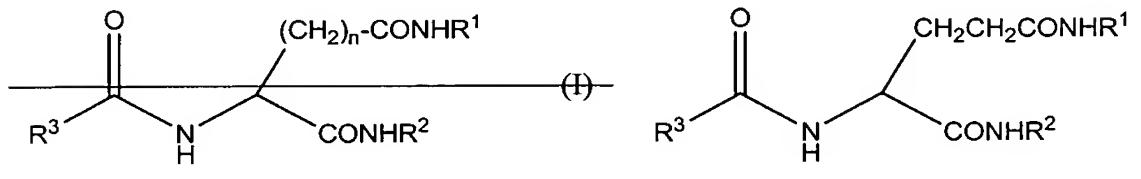


AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² independently represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 26 carbon atoms, R³ represents a hydrocarbon group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, n represents 1 or 2 provided that the acidic amino acid residue in the molecule is L-aspartic acid residue when n is 1 and said acidic amino acid residue is L-glutamic acid residue when n is 2.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² independently represent a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 26 2 to 6 carbon atoms, R³ represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, and n represents 2.

3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, which is N-2-ethylhexanoyl-L-glutamic acid dibutylamide, N-octanoyl-L-glutamic acid dibutylamide, or N-decanoyl-L-glutamic acid dibutylamide.

4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, which is N-2-ethylhexanoyl-L-glutamic acid dibutylamide.

5. (Currently Amended) A gelling agent for an oil which comprises at least one compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 Claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) A gelling agent for an oil which comprises at least one compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 Claim 1 and N-lauroyl-L-glutamic acid dibutylamide.

7. (Currently Amended) The gelling agent according to Claim 6, wherein a ration of total weight of the said compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 and weight of N-lauroyl-L-glutamic acid dibutylamide is 35:5 to 5:35.

8. (Currently Amended) A gel composition containing (a) a gelling agent according to any one of Claims 5 to 7 Claim 5, and (b) at least one oil.

9. (Currently Amended) The gel composition according to Claim 8, which is a translucent composition.

10. (Currently Amended) The gel composition according to Claim 8 or 9, which further contains (c) at least one antiperspirant active ingredient.

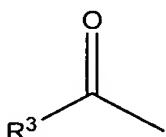
11. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic comprising a gel composition according to any one of Claims 8 to 10 Claim 8.

12. (New) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R³ represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 7 to 9 carbon atoms.

13. (New) The compound according to Claim 2, wherein R³ represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 7 to 9 carbon atoms.

14. (New) The compound according to Claim 2, wherein R¹ and R² independently represent a linear or branched alkyl group having 3 to 5 carbon atoms.

15. (New) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein the moiety in the formula represented by:



is selected from the group consisting of n-octanoyl, n-nonanoyl, n-decanoyl, n-undecanoyl and 2-ethylhexanoyl.

16. (New) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein said compound is in a hydrate form.

17. (New) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein said compound is in a crystal form.

18. (New) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein said compound is isolated.

19. (New) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein said compound is purified.

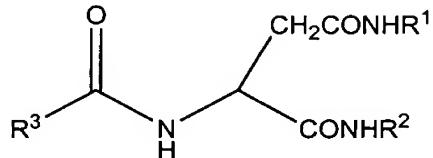
20. (New) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein said compound is chemically synthesized.

21. (New) The cosmetic according to Claim 11, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group consisting of a chelating agent, a gelling agent, a surfactant, an amino acid, a polyhydric alcohol, a polyamino acid, a water-soluble polymer, a sugar alcohol, a lower alcohol, an animal extract, a plant extract, a nucleic acid, a vitamin, an enzyme, an anti-inflammatory agent, an antibacterial agent, a preservative, an antioxidant, an ultraviolet absorber, an antiperspirant, a pigment, a dye, an oxidation dye, an organic fine particle, an inorganic fine particle, a pH adjusting agent, a pearling agent, and a wetting agent.

22. (New) A cosmetic comprising a gel composition according to Claim 10.

23. (New) The cosmetic according to Claim 22, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group consisting of a chelating agent, a gelling agent, a surfactant, an amino acid, a polyhydric alcohol, a polyamino acid, a water-soluble polymer, a sugar alcohol, a lower alcohol, an animal extract, a plant extract, a nucleic acid, a vitamin, an enzyme, an anti-inflammatory agent, an antibacterial agent, a preservative, an antioxidant, an ultraviolet absorber, a pigment, a dye, an oxidation dye, an organic fine particle, an inorganic fine particle, a pH adjusting agent, a pearling agent, and a wetting agent.

24. (New) A compound represented by the following general formula:



wherein R¹ and R² independently represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 26 carbon atoms, R³ represents a hydrocarbon group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms.

25. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein R¹ and R² independently represent a linear or branched alkyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms

26. (New) A gelling agent for an oil which comprises at least one compound according to Claim 24.

27. (New) A gelling agent for an oil which comprises at least one compound according to Claim 24 and N-lauroyl-L-glutamic acid dibutylamide.

28. (New) The gelling agent according to Claim 27, wherein a ration of total weight of said compound and weight of N-lauroyl-L-glutamic acid dibutylamide is 35:5 to 5:35.

29. (New) A gel composition containing (a) a gelling agent according to Claim 24, and (b) at least one oil.

30. (New) The gel composition according to Claim 29, which is a translucent composition.

31. (New) The gel composition according to Claim 29, which further contains (c) at least one antiperspirant active ingredient.

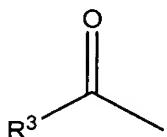
32. (New) A cosmetic comprising a gel composition according to Claim 29.

33. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein R^3 represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 7 to 9 carbon atoms.

34. (New) The compound according to Claim 25, wherein R³ represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 7 to 9 carbon atoms.

35. (New) The compound according to Claim 25, wherein R¹ and R² independently represent a linear or branched alkyl group having 3 to 5 carbon atoms.

36. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein the moiety in the formula represented by:



is selected from the group consisting of n-octanoyl, n-nonanoyl, n-decanoyl, n-undecanoyl and 2-ethylhexanoyl.

37. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein said compound is in a hydrate form.

38. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein said compound is in a crystal form.

39. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein said compound is isolated.

40. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein said compound is purified.

41. (New) The compound according to Claim 24, wherein said compound is chemically synthesized.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 2, and 5-11 have been amended.

Claims 12-41 have been added.

The amendment of Claims 1, 2, and 5-11 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed and by the specification at pages 4-10. New Claims 12-41 are supported by original Claims 1-11 and the specification as originally filed at pages 4-10.

No new matter is believed to have been entered by the present amendment.